

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Does anyone else wish to speak to this portion of the amendment? Seeing none, we will now vote on this portion of the Hartnett amendment. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 1 nay, Madam President, on adoption of Senator Hartnett's amendment to the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Madam President, the next amendment I have is to the committee amendments. It's also by Senators Wickersham, Hartnett and Lamb. (AM3609 was printed separately from the Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. This amendment is LB 1214. LB 1214 was heard in the Transportation Committee and reported out without dissenting votes. We have only made a couple of changes in LB 1214, as is presented to you in this amendment. I think the changes are desirable and I will discuss those after giving a brief overview of what 1214 does. LB 1214 is another piece of legislation for the saving of railroads in the State of Nebraska. Previously, we talked about the state package of tools, that was LB 783 that we passed last year. LB 1214, which is now this amendment, was the package of tools that would be available to local communities and counties if they wish to participate in saving a railroad. And what we're doing here is completely permissive in terms of setting up a structure where if you have communities that are interested in saving a railroad, they would have interested persons draw a petition, describe the area that is to be included in the rail preservation district and obtain signatures on that petition. They would be required to obtain signatures of 5 percent of the voters in the last gubernatorial election in two-fifths of the counties that would be included in the area. Using as an example an area that would cover eight counties, you would need four counties with 5 percent of the voters voting at the last gubernatorial election to ratify the petition. Once the petition had the required number of signatures, the issue would go on the ballot and simply the ballot question would be, shall we create a rail preservation district. The district, if it was